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3100 Cumberland Circle
Atlanta, GA 30339
Telephone: (404) 649-6788
Fax: (404) 649-5174
Mailstop: GAATL N0802

Carolyn Tatum Roddy
Attorney, State Regulatory

February 5, 1998

VIA FED EX

Mr. David Waddell
Executive Director
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0505

RE: BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.'s Entry Into Long Distance
(InterLATA) Service in Tennessee Pursuant to Section 271 of the
Telecommunications Act of 1996
(Docket No. 97-00309)

Dear Mr. Waddell:

Please find enclosed for filing the original and thirteen (13) copies of Comments on How Tennessee Regulatory Authority Should Conduct Technical Workshops and Demonstrations by Sprint Communications Company L.P. in the above-captioned matter.

An extra copy of this transmittal letter is included which I would ask that you please date stamp and return to me for my files in the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Tatum Roddy
Carolyn Tatum Roddy

CTR:drs

Enclosures

**BEFORE THE
TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY
Nashville, Tennessee**

98 FEB 6 AM 10 30

In re:

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.'s Entry Into)
Long Distance (InterLATA) Service in Tennessee) Docket No. 97-00309
Pursuant to Section 271 of the Telecommunications)
Act of 1996)

**COMMENTS ON HOW TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY
SHOULD CONDUCT TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS AND DEMONSTRATIONS**

Comes now Sprint Communications Company L.P. ("Sprint") and submits these its Comments on How the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("TRA") Should Conduct Technical Workshops and Demonstrations in the above-captioned case. The TRA adopted a procedural order in this docket on February 3, 1998, which specifies that a Technical Workshop on Operational Support Systems ("OSS") will be held on March 5-6, 1998, and a Technical Workshop on Performance Measures will be held on March 23-24, 1998. These Comments are filed to provide Sprint's suggestions concerning how the TRA should conduct these technical workshops and demonstrations as follows:

Technical Workshop – OSS

Sprint requests that the TRA model its OSS Workshop upon the procedures established to investigate the BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") Operational Support Systems in Alabama.

Alabama required BellSouth to demonstrate both the OSS structure that it offers to new entrants and the OSS interfaces it provides internally for its own use. After each of these demonstrations, the workshop participants were given the opportunity to ask BellSouth questions about the systems demonstrated. After both demonstrations and the question-answer period had concluded, each of the parties were given an opportunity to make a statement summarizing their positions on the OSS interfaces demonstrated. Although Alabama initially limited these time periods, these limitations did not seem to be enforced. If a time limit is set, each party should be given a minimum of 15 minutes to ask questions and 30 minutes to summarize their positions. The demonstrations, question-and-answer periods and the statement summaries were recorded by a licensed court reporter. This structure allowed for full participation by all interested parties and allowed the Alabama Public Service Commission to fully examine the OSS interfaces offered to new entrants and to its own employees. Further, it provided participants an opportunity to question BellSouth in an interactive format. Sprint encourages the TRA to adopt a similar comprehensive approach, which will provide all interested parties an opportunity to participate in a meaningful manner.


Technical Workshop – Performance Measures

The TRA should require interested parties to provide proposed performance measures in writing prior to the technical workshop scheduled for March 23-24, 1998. The workshop should be an open forum for interested parties to offer presentations explaining the measurements they propose. If a time limit is established, the parties should be given a minimum of 30 minutes to present their proposed measures. Subject matter experts should be prepared to answer questions posed by the Directors or staff of the TRA. The presentations and question-and-answer period should be recorded by a licensed court reporter.

ACCORDINGLY, Sprint requests the Tennessee Regulatory Authority adopt its suggestions concerning its scheduled Occupational Support Systems Technical Workshop and the Technical Workshop on Performance Measures.

Respectfully submitted,

Sprint Communications Company L.P.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn Tatum Roddy".

Carolyn Tatum Roddy
3100 Cumberland Circle-GAATLNO802
Atlanta, Georgia 30339
(404) 649-6788

CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served a true and exact copy of the within and foregoing Comments on How Tennessee Regulatory Authority Should Conduct Technical Workshops and Demonstrations by Sprint Communications Company L.P. in Docket No. 97-00309, via United States mail, postage paid and properly addressed to the following:

H. LaDon Baltimore
Farrar & Bates, LLP
211 Seventh Avenue North, Ste. 320
Nashville, Tennessee 37219-1823

K. David Waddell
Executive Secretary
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
450 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0505

Jonathan E. Canis
Kelley Drye & Warren LLP
1200 19TH Street, N.W.
Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dana Shaffer, Esquire
Nextlink
105 Malloy Street, #300
Nashville, Tennessee 37201

Charles B. Welch, Esquire
Farris, Mathews, et al.
511 Union Street, #2400
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

Henry Walker, Esquire
Boult, Cummings, et al.
P.O. Box 198062
Nashville, Tennessee 37219-8062

Jon E. Hastings, Esquire
Boult, Cummings, et al.
P.O. Box 198062
Nashville, Tennessee 37219-8062

Alaine Miller
NextLink
155 – 108th Avenue NE
Suite 810
Bellevue, WA 98004

Bennett Ross
BellSouth Telecommunications
675 West Peachtree Street
Suite 4300
Atlanta, GA 30375

Claire Daly
LDDS WorldCom
201 Energy Parkway
Suite 200
Lafayette, LA 70508

Douglas W. Kinkoph
LCI International
8180 Greensboro Drive
Suite 800
McLean, VA 22101

Martha McMillin
MCI
780 Johnson Ferry Road
Suite 700
Atlanta, GA 30342

Guy Hicks
BellSouth Telecommunications Inc.
Suite 2101
333 Commerce Street
Nashville, TN 37201-3300

James P. Lamoureux
AT&T
Room 4068
1200 Peachtree Street NE
Atlanta, GA 30309

Michael McRae
Sr. Regulatory Counsel – TCG MidSouth
2 Lafayette Centre
1133 21st Street, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20036

Susan Davis Morley
Wiggins & Villacorta P.A.
PO Drawer 1657
501 East Tennessee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32302

Val Sanford, Esquire
Gullett, Sanford, et al.
PO Box 198888
230 Fourth Avenue N., 3rd Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37219-8888

Vincent Williams, Esquire
Consumer Advocate Division
426 5th Avenue, N., 2nd Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Guilford Thornton, Esquire
Stokes & Bartholomew
424 Church Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

Donald L. Scholes BPR #10102
Branstetter, Kilgore, Stranch & Jennings
227 Second Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37219

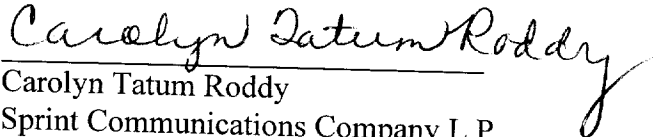
Andrew O. Isar
Tennessee Resellers Assn.
Director-Industry Relations
4312 92nd Ave. NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98335

Enrico C. Soriano
Kelley Drye & Warren LLP
1200 19th Street, N.W.
Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20036

D. Billye Sanders
Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis
A Professional Limited Liability Company
511 Union Street, Suite 2100
Nashville, TN 37219-1760

Vance Broemel, Esquire
Consumer Advocate Division
426 5th Avenue, N., 2nd Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

This the 5th day of February, 1998


Carolyn Tatum Roddy
Sprint Communications Company L.P.
External Affairs